



April 2015 Member Update

April showers bring....a flood of new Open Access-oriented policies! With 11 U.S. federal agencies releasing their new plans for increasing access to research data and articles, our community has its hands full sorting through the raft of new requirements, and trying to understand what roles we can play to make the implementation as smooth as possible on our campuses.

SPARC has been hard at work tracking the release of each new plan, and providing you with summaries of key requirements as each is released. We're also well aware that individuals in many of your libraries are also tracking details of new requirements, and in the coming weeks/months, we will make a concerted effort to try and coordinate with these people, and bring together targeted, concise resources to help make the process of understanding the new rules – and complying with them – as easy as possible.

If you're working on something on your campus and would like join forces, please let us know!



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



OPEN ACCESS

SPARC “MORE” Conference - March 2016

SPARC has announced the dates for its 2016 meeting, which will take place March 7-8, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of San Antonio's famed River Walk. Dubbed the SPARC “MORE” Conference (Meeting on Openness in Research and Education), the meeting will build on the theme of the convergence of the open movements. Its program will focus on exploring the evolving roles that libraries are playing – and can consider playing - in the growing shift toward Open Access, Open Education and Open Data. More details will follow this summer and we look forward to seeing you in Texas in 2016.

Global Research Council Meeting Workshop on Open Access

This month, SPARC was invited to speak at a workshop on Open Access designed to inform the international funders who make up the [Global Research Council](#) on the future of Open Access policy development. Hosted by the Research Councils United Kingdom (RCUK), the meeting brought together research funders from more than 30 countries.

The discussions centered around the costs and benefits of two general policy approaches: one that favors an approach of public funders collectively paying for publication of articles in Open Access journals, and one that favors the deposit of articles in Open Access repositories, and the possible negative effects that opting exclusively for one approach might have on stakeholder communities. This critical conversation will continue at the upcoming General Assembly of the GRC to take place in Tokyo in May.

New Open Access Policy Resources Available

The PASTEUR4OA (Policy Alignment STRategies for European Union Research) Project, which SPARC EU has been heavily involved in, has recently released new tools to provide additional evidence to assist with the development of open access policies. An important part of this work was rebuilding and refreshing the ROARMAP -- the comprehensive database of worldwide open access policies. The ROARMap is [available here](#) and a full listing of tools are [available here](#).



OPEN EDUCATION

OER Conference Update

Over the past month, SPARC has played a key role in a series of important meetings in the OER space. First, SPARC attended the annual Hewlett Foundation OER grantees meeting (#oer2015) in Sausalito, CA, where we organized and led sessions on OER strategy. Nicole Allen also represented SPARC at two back-to-back international conferences: OER 15 (#oer15) in Cardiff, Wales and Open Education Global (#oeglobal) in Banff, Alberta, and gave presentations on OER policy and the intersection of OER and open government. Slides from these presentations are [available here](#). A note to SPARC members who may be attending future OER events: be on the lookout for a social gathering called "karaOERke" at such events that SPARC organizes...it's exactly as fun as it sounds.

New Statistics on Textbook Spending

A [recent article](#) reviewing existing research on textbook costs sparked a debate about the best statistic to measure the impact on students. The overall takeaway is that it is important to consider all types of data: rising textbook list prices and student budgets, falling student expenditures, and the increasing number of students who delay or avoid textbook purchases. The article provides a useful review of the latest statistics, and concludes with an important message about textbook costs: "this is not a good situation for student retention and learning."

Join Our Webcast on the Efficacy of OER on May 5th at 1pm EDT

Open Educational Resources have always held the promise of saving students millions of dollars each year. But is cost savings the only advantage of OER? A growing body of evidence suggests that OER produce learning outcomes that are as good or, in many cases, better than those of proprietary learning materials. Our next OpenCon Community Webcast with BYU researcher John Hilton III, will delve into current research on the efficacy of Open Educational Resources and how they compare with traditional textbooks. The 45-minute webcast will be held on Tuesday, May 5th, at 1pm EDT. You can view the

webcast at opencon2015.org/community/webcasts.



OPEN DATA

Inaugural COAR/SPARC Conference in Porto, Portugal a Success

The [joint COAR/SPARC meeting](#) took place in Porto, Portugal on April 15 & 16. The meeting featured a diverse set of international experts speaking on topics of central interest to our community, from Open Science policies to Research Data Management, to Global Alignment. Sessions featured perspectives from panelists representing both the global North and South, and the diverse audience of participants from nearly 30 different countries added to the richness of the discussions.

Two highlights of the program include the thoughtful opening keynote by John Wilbanks, calling for the library/repository community to rethink how we frame our repositories when we try and make the case to researchers and scholars, by speaking about the *value* that opening up access to their content can provide, and the closing keynote by Dominique Babini, from the Latin American Council of Social Sciences, who outlined a vision for evolving repositories into a more dynamic environment supporting the communication of all stages of scholarly research.

Latest on U.S. Federal Agency Research Data Sharing Plans

As U.S. Federal Agencies continue to release their plans detailing requirements for research data management and sharing, SPARC has been tracking them, and preparing summaries of key elements and requirements for each. You can find summaries of these data sharing plans on the [SPARC Research Data Sharing Initiative page](#), as well as links to other great tools (like the Data Management Plan Tool – DMPTool.org) that can help you and your colleagues begin to work through and make sense of these new requirements.

Inaugural Commerce Data Advisory Council Meeting

Last week, Heather Joseph participated on behalf of SPARC in the inaugural Commerce Data Advisory Council meeting, which has been convened to provide guidance on Open Data to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The group got right to work on the four goals of the Council - 1. Producing a guiding set of principles and best practices for Department of Commerce data programs; 2. Providing advice on Commerce data plans that are in development; 3. Advising on a wide variety of data projects that are currently underway at Commerce Bureaus; and 4. Provide expertise on how to attract and retain talent, and how to best partner with the private sector, non-profits and educational institutions.



STUDENT ACTION

OpenCon 2015 to be held November 14-16 in Brussels, Belgium

This month, SPARC announced OpenCon 2015: Empowering the Next Generation to Advance Open Access, Open Education and Open Data. Slated for November 14-16 in Brussels, Belgium, OpenCon 2015 will bring together students and early career academic

professionals from across the world to learn about the issues, develop critical skills, and return home ready to catalyze action toward a more open system for sharing the world's information. Attendance at OpenCon is by application only; however, a limited number of scholarship sponsorships are available to allow an institution to send a selected attendee to OpenCon with all travel and accommodation costs covered. More information is [available here](#).

Call for OpenCon Satellite Events

Alongside the OpenCon announcement, SPARC has also issued a [call for satellite events](#). OpenCon 2015 satellite events can be of any size, in any place, and can be held simultaneously or up to 6 weeks after the main OpenCon conference. Satellite events serve as an excellent opportunity to build local networks and momentum in your area, and reflect the fact that conversations surrounding Open Access, Open Education and Open Data are not homogeneous and vary institution by institution. Satellite event hosts are heavily supported with a [high quality, customized resource pack, and support with publicity](#). Satellite events are a key strategy for broadening the reach of OpenCon. More information is [available here](#).

Student-led Campus Campaigns Continue to Advance

April saw significant advances from a number of student-led campaigns across the United States. In Hawaii, the Graduate Student Organization of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa voted in support of extending its institutional open access policy to apply to graduate students as well. This is the second such policy voted into place by graduate students, following a similar 2013 policy at the Stanford Graduate School of Education. The University of Washington Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting the development of a campus open access policy, which the University's Graduate & Professional Student Senate helped champion.

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Thoughts on ways to improve this communication? Please send them to Shawn Daugherty, Assistant Director for Operations & Programs at shawn@sparcopen.org